

Message Text

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ORIGIN INR-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 /020 R

DRAFTED BY INR/RES:RPORTER

APPROVED BY INR:RKIRK

EUR/RPM:RFROWICK

INR/RES:KKERST

----- 032012

R 241729Z APR 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO OIC PTC

INFO USMISSION NATO

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PASS FOLLOWING VIA THE NATO-WIDE COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM

RR RFWFA RFWFB RFWFD RFWFE RFWF F RFWFG RFWFH RFWFI RFWFK

RFWFL RFWFM RFWFN RFWFO RFWFP RFWFQ RFWFR RFWFZ

DE RUEHC #4629 1141732

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FROM WASHINGTON

TO AIG 6006, 6007

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NATO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE FROM WASHINGTON

POLITICAL ANALYSIS: SOVIET PROPAGANDA PLAYS DOWN US WAR-
TIME AID

1. THE CURRENT SOVIET PROPAGANDA BUILDUP FOR THE 30TH
ANNIVERSARY OF THE END OF WORLD WAR II (MAY 9) ACCENTS THE
SOVIET ROLE IN VICTORY AND BELITTLES THE AMERICAN AND
ALLIED CONTRIBUTION. WHILE THE TREATMENT ONLY EMPHASIZES
LONG-ESTABLISHED SOVIET VIEWS ON THE COURSE AND OUTCOME OF
THE WAR, THE UNYIELDING TONE IS STILL SOMEWHAT SURPRISING
IN AN ERA OF DETENTE. THE ONLY REDEEMING NOTE IN SOME
COMMENTARIES HAS BEEN THE ADMISSION THAT THERE ACTUALLY

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WAS AN "ANTI-HITLERITE COALITION."

2. IN A SERIES OF ARTICLES AND BROADCASTS BEGINNING IN
FEBRUARY, SOVIET CIVILIAN AND MILITARY SPOKESMEN HAVE

CELEBRATED THE "DECISIVE ROLE" OF SOVIET FORCES IN THE

1945 EUROPEAN VICTORY. SOME SPECIFICALLY ATTACKED "FABRICATIONS OF (WESTERN) FALSIFIERS OF HISTORY," I.E., THOSE WHO CHALLENGE THE PARAMOUNT SOVIET ROLE. IN PUTTING DOWN THE AMERICAN AND ALLIED CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE WAR EFFORT, THEY EMPHASIZED THAT:

(A)--THE SOVIET-GERMAN FRONT WAS THE MAIN ONE; THE USSR DEFEATED FOUR TIMES AS MANY DIVISIONS AS THE ALLIES ELSEWHERE. (THE WAR IN THE PACIFIC IS VIRTUALLY IGNORED.)

(B)--ANGLO-AMERICAN BOMBING WAS INEFFECTIVE IN DESTROYING GERMAN WAR INDUSTRY.

(C)--"THE SECOND FRONT WAS OPENED ONLY WHEN IT WAS CLEAR TO THE WORLD THAT THE SOVIET PEOPLE WERE ABLE TO GUARANTEE VICTORY THROUGH THEIR OWN EFFORTS."

(D)--ALLIED LEND LEASE AMOUNTED TO ONLY 4 PERCENT OF THE STRATEGIC WAR MATERIALS, EQUIPMENT, AND ARMS USED BY THE SOVIETS. THE LARGEST PART OF IT ARRIVED IN THE SECOND HALF OF THE WAR--AFTER STALINGRAD.

3. RED STAR, ON FEBRUARY 27 AND MARCH 2, FOR THE FIRST TIME PUBLISHED FIGURES ON US LEND LEASE AND SOVIET PRODUCTION, WHICH UNDERScoreD THE THESIS THAT US AID WAS MINIMAL.

(A)--SOVIET ARMS PRODUCTION FOR 1941: AIRCRAFT--12,000; TANKS--6,000; GUNS--17,000. FOR 1942: AIRCRAFT--21,600; TANKS--24,000; GUNS--285,900. FOR 1941-45: AIRCRAFT--137,000; TANKS--104,000; GUNS--488,000.

(B)--US LEND LEASE FOR 1941-45: AIRCRAFT--18,700; TANKS--LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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10,800; GUNS--9,600.

4. WHILE THE FIGURES CITED FOR AMERICAN ASSISTANCE ARE RELATIVELY CLOSE TO THE US STATISTICS, THE MOST IMPRESSIVE CATEGORIES HAVE OF COURSE BEEN OMITTED. THERE IS NO MENTION, FOR EXAMPLE, THAT 2,500 SHIPS DELIVERED LEND LEASE CARGO WORTH 11 BILLION DOLS TO THE SOVIET UNION FROM JUNE 1941 TO SEPTEMBER 1945 (77 WERE LOST, MOST OF THEM IN 1942). NOR DO THE FIGURES COVER THE DOZEN OR MORE INDUSTRIAL PLANTS, THE RAW MATERIALS, AND THE OTHER GOODS THAT THE US PROVIDED UNDER LEND LEASE, FOR INSTANCE: FUEL--2.8 MILLION TONS; FOOD--4.3 MILLION TONS; EXPLOSIVES--.3

MILLION TONS; TRUCKS--364,000; JEEPS--47,000; LOCOMOTIVES--
2,000; FREIGHT CARS--11,000; SUBMACHINE GUNS--112,000;

BOOTS--14.5 MILLION PAIRS; TIRES--3.6 MILLION; FIELD
TELEPHONES 380,000.

5. THE OLDER GENERATION OF SOVIETS WHO LIVED THROUGH THE
WAR ARE STILL VERY MUCH AWARE THAT THE OFFICIAL DOWNPLAYING
OF LEND LEASE IS SOMEWHAT LESS THAN THE WHOLE TRUTH.
INDEED, MANY OF THEM STILL REMEMBER SPAM AS A DELICACY.
AND, FOR YEARS AFTER THE WAR, "STUDYABACKER" WAS SYNONYMOUS
FOR TRUCK IN RUSSIAN.

6. THUS, THE SOVIET REGIME'S IDEOLOGICAL UNWILLINGNESS TO
SHARE THE HONOR OF VICTORY APPEARS UNCHANGED IN THE DETENTE
ERA. IT IS ALL THE MORE INCONGRUOUS IN VIEW OF THE FACT
THAT THE US AND OTHER WESTERN GOVERNMENTS ARE RECEIVING
SOVIET INVITATIONS TO PARTICIPATE IN JOINT CEREMONIES TO
COMMEMORATE THAT VICTORY.

7. THE EXPLANATION OF THIS DELIBERATE MYOPIA LIES MAINLY
IN THE KEY IDEOLOGICAL ROLE OF "THE SECOND FATHERLAND WAR."
LIKE THE OCTOBER REVOLUTION, THE SOVIET ROLE IN WORLD WAR
II HAS BECOME HEAVILY OVERLADEN WITH OFFICIAL MYTHOLOGY.
THE FINAL FORGING OF THE SOVIET STATE, WHICH IS WHAT THE
WORLD WAR II EXPERIENCE REPRESENTS FOR THE COMMUNIST
FAITHFUL AND IS INTENDED TO REPRESENT TO FUTURE GENERA-
TIONS, IS THEREFORE TOO VITAL TO THE REGIME'S AND THE
STATE'S SELF-IMAGE FOR ANY RESERVATIONS TO BE ADMITTED,
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HOWEVER TRUE, DETENTE OR NO DETENTE. KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 26 AUG 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PROPAGANDA, ANTIAMERICAN FEELING, COMMEMORATIVE CELEBRATIONS, WORLD WAR II
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 APR 1975
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE094629
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: INR/RES:RPORTER
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: n/a
Film Number: D750145-0355
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t197504103/baaaahvr.tel
Line Count: 146
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, TEXT ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN INR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16 SEP 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <16 Sep 2003 by MorefiRH>; APPROVED <29 OCT 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: n/a
TAGS: PROP, MOPS, MASS, PFOR, UR
To: OIC PTC INFO NATO
ALL NATO CAPITALS
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006